

To: Card, Joan[Card.Joan@epa.gov]; Hestmark, Martin[Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov]; Progeess, Christina[Progeess.Christina@epa.gov]; Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]; Faulk, Libby[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov]; Peterson, Cynthia[Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov]; Hanley, Jim[Hanley.James@epa.gov]
From: Mylott, Richard
Sent: Wed 10/7/2015 7:33:01 PM
Subject: FW: questions

fyi

From: Hartman - DNR, Todd [mailto:todd.hartman@state.co.us]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 1:29 PM
To: jeff.graves@state.co.us; Mylott, Richard
Subject: Fwd: questions

Jeff (DRMS) and Rich (EPA) - Here is back and forth with Mr. Finley. You will see we heavily deferred questions to lead agencies. You will also see today he hit us with new questions which we are sifting through now. I've included the whole string. - Todd

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Bruce Finley** <bfinley@denverpost.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 7, 2015 at 10:36 AM
Subject: Re: questions
To: "Hartman - DNR, Todd" <todd.hartman@state.co.us>

Todd, Ginny - So I am hearing there are already bulkheads in the Standard Mine and the Keystone Mine. Please explain.

And when you say state (DRMS AND WQCD) advised against a bulkhead at Keystone, when was that? Can you send the document or letter that conveyed the state recommendation against a bulkhead?

Finally, does Colorado support creation of a dedicated national cleanup fund for dealing with acid mine drainage into waterways? If so, what are state leaders doing to encourage creation of

such a fund?

- Bruce

On Wed, Sep 30, 2015 at 3:08 PM, Hartman - DNR, Todd <todd.hartman@state.co.us> wrote:

Hi Bruce -

- 1) EPA is the lead agency at the Standard Mine, which is being addressed through Superfund. Questions about the Standard Mine need to be directed to EPA.
- 2) Almost all your questions about Keystone Mine involve water treatment there, which is under jurisdiction of the Water Quality Control Division and CDPHE, which is where to direct your questions.
- 3) CDPHE's hazardous materials division would be the appropriate place to direct your questions about the VCUP (voluntary cleanup) at Keystone that was under consideration that location.

As you said, DRMS and WQCD did advise a bulkhead at the proposed location in the VCUP proposal came with a risk of causing water to seep out at miscellaneous locations. As we have maintained, and said to you previously in response to other queries from you, bulkheads are not a solution at every site.

GENERAL

-Gold King v. Standard - pls address your questions to EPA, which is the lead agency at both sites.

-Same

-Conditions and scenarios vary widely at abandoned mine sites throughout the state. Prioritizing the sites that have the most impact on water quality has been the approach of both the state and the federal environmental agencies for many years. These efforts have reduced water pollution at

numerous

locations, and we will continue to direct available time and resources to the highest priority sites where we can have an impact.

With respect to DRMS, within the limitations of Clean Water Act liability and the lack of a dedicated funding source for hardrock mines, we have completed numerous water quality improvement projects at abandoned mines and will continue to do so with our state, federal and private partners.

On Tue, Sep 29, 2015 at 6:20 AM, Ginny Brannon - DNR <ginny.brannon@state.co.us> wrote:

Bruce, will try and fill in answers during a very busy day, but please go through Todd on all inquiries.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 28, 2015, at 6:05 PM, Bruce Finley <bfinley@denverpost.com> wrote:

Hi Ginny - Here are some questions on the mine situation outside of Crested Butte -- hoping to have DRMS perspective as soon as possible for a story in progress.

Standard Mine

- What has been the impact of the EPA's post-Gold King halt at the Standard Mine above Coal Creek west of Crested Butte?
- What are DRMS priorities on the timetable for cleanup at the Standard Mine?
- What are the drainage volumes at the Standard Mine?
- What was the bore hole work done at the Standard Mine in August? How did that fit into reclamation or public safety?
- What are the heavy metals levels in waterways below the Standard Mine site?
- How many bulkheads have been installed in the Standard Mine? How many are planned?

Keystone Mine

- What does DRMS favor for handling the Keystone mine, also west of Crested Butte?
- I understand there is a water treatment plant. Is it operating? Is it sufficient?
- What bond has been collected for the WTP at the Keystone mine to ensure it will keep operating?
- You indicated DRMS decided against a bulkhead at the Keystone mine, saying this was a case where a bulkhead would not be appropriate due to fractured rock. Please explain.

GENERAL

- Please provide what you can comparing the Gold King Mine situation above Silverton-Durango with the Standard Mine/Keystone mine situation above Crested Butte?
- What is DRMS view when residents looking at Gold King events say 'that could have been us'?
- Finally, what is the end state (e.g. bulkheads, water treatment plants, combinations of these, tailings removal..) that DRMS would like to see -- and how soon -- around the state where draining mines affect

waterways that flow through communities?

Thanks,

Bruce

303.954.1700

303.350.7259 (cell)